

Claims

1. Apparatus for releasing tablets from a blister pack having a plurality of tablets contained in corresponding blisters, the apparatus comprising abutment means, receiving means for receiving a blister pack with any selected one of a plurality of blisters of the pack in registry with the abutment means, either one of the abutment means and the receiving means being moveable to cause a collapsing force to be exerted on a selected blister thereby to release a tablet from the blister, wherein the apparatus includes biasing means for urging the receiving means into engagement with the blister pack, and the receiving means is so arranged that said engagement releasably retains, and locates, the blister pack in position relative to the abutment means prior to the release of the tablet.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the abutment means is moveable towards a blister of a pack retained in the receiving means.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving means is arranged to receive a blister pack so that the selected blister faces the abutment means, the latter being operable to exert said collapsing force by directly engaging the blister.
4. Apparatus according to claim any preceding claim, wherein the receiving means comprises a pair of opposed jaws.
5. Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein one of the jaws is so shaped as to locate a selected blister in registry with the abutment means, and has a recess of a complimentary shape to that of a blister.
6. Apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the abutment means comprises a plunger moveably mounted on a jaw of the receiving means.

7. Apparatus according to any of claims 4 to 6, wherein the biasing means is integrally formed with a jaw.
8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the biasing means comprises a resiliently flexible connecting arm.
9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the connecting arm is substantially u-shaped.
10. Apparatus according to any of claims 4 to 9, wherein the biasing means is operable to bias the jaws into a neutral position, in which they are spaced apart so as to be able to receive a blister pack.
11. Apparatus according to any claim 6 or any claim dependent therefrom, wherein the apparatus includes a further biasing means which acts between the plunger and the jaw in which it is mounted so as to urge the plunger away from the other jaw.
12. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the further biasing means is arranged to exert a sufficient biasing force on the plunger so as to make it difficult for a small child to use the device to obtain a tablet.
13. Apparatus according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the further biasing means comprises a resiliently compressible member.
14. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the resiliently compressible member comprises a sleeve which extends around the plunger.
15. Apparatus according to any of claims 4 to 14, wherein the apparatus includes a base for supporting the jaws on a supporting surface, the base including an opening and a chute for conducting a tablet released from a blister pack to the opening.

16. Apparatus according to claim 6 or any claim dependent therefrom, wherein the plunger has a head, to be pressed by the user, which is considerably larger than a blister.